

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

COMSIXTHFLT

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: REACTION TO DEVELOPMENTS ON THE AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF: ATHENS 8881

1. THE EXPECTED VOTE BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC) ON
THE DRAFT RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE AEGEAN DISPUTE AND
CONSIDERATION BY THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE
GREEK COMPLAINT CONCERNING THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF WERE

THE FOCUS OF MUCH OF THE MEDIA TODAY (AUGUST 25). NEWS
STORIES, PRIMARILY FROM NEW YORK, INDICATED THAT THE UNSC

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MET IN CLOSED SESSION LAST NIGHT TO REVIEW THE FOUR-POWER

(BRITAIN, FRANCE, ITALY AND THE U.S.) DRAFT RESOLUTION AND DECIDED TO PROCEED AND PUT IT TO THE VOTE IN AN OPEN MEETING TODAY. ACCORDING TO THESE ACCOUNTS, BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY WILL BE ABLE TO PRESENT THEIR OPINIONS FOLLOWING THE FORMAL VOTE. THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION IS PUBLISHED IN ALL NEWSPAPERS WITH SOME CLAIMING THAT WHILE THE RESOLUTION IS A "DEFEAT" FOR TURKEY IT IS NOT A "VICTORY" FOR GREECE GENERALLY, HOWEVER, THE PRESS INDICATES THE RESOLUTION IS ESSENTIALLY FAVORABLE TO GREECE, WITH PRO-GOVERNMENT PAPERS SAYING THE OUTCOME VINDICATES THE GOG'S POLICY. TODAY'S AFTERNOON NEWSPAPERS ALSO CARRY REPORTS OUT OF NEW YORK THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE TURKEY WILL TAKE ITS CHARGES CONCERNING GREEK VIOLATION OF THE TREATIES OF LAUSANNE AND PARIS BY MILITARIZING THE EASTERN AEGEAN ISLANDS AND THE DODECANESE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

2. THE PRESS AND RADIO NEWSCASTS CLAIM THE DRAFT RESOLUTION IS LIKELY TO BE ADOPTED BY A 12-VOTE MAJORITY, WITH LIBYA AND PAKISTAN (WHO FAVOR TURKEY) VOTING AGAINST OR ABSTAINING AND CHINA, AS IS ITS CUSTOM, PROBABLY NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE VOTE. MANY STORIES SAW THE GREEK APPROACH AT THE UNSC AS BEING FULLY SUPPORTED BY "EUROPE", SPECIFICALLY BRITAIN, FRANCE AND ITALY, AND THE POSITION OF THE U.S. AS BEING GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO GREECE. EVEN COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE INTERIOR'S ORGAN AVGHI CARRIED SUBTITLES "THE AMERICANS ATTEMPT TO HELP THE GREEK SIDE", ALTHOUGH ITS EDITORIAL WAS CRITICAL OF THE U.S. ALLEGEDLY FOR BACKING DEMIREL. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, ASKED YESTERDAY BY NEWSMEN AS TO THE U.S. ROLE, RESPONDED, "THEY (THE AMERICANS) ARE TRYING TO HELP THE GREEK SIDE, BUT THEY ARE NOT SUCCEEDING TO THE EXTENT WE WOULD LIKE IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE" (ATHENS 8901). THE PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS WERE WIDELY PLAYED IN THE PRESS.

3. MUCH OF THE MEDIA VOICED CONCERN AT THE CONTINUING STATEMENTS BY TURKISH REPRESENTATIVES, PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL IN PARTICULAR, ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE AEGEAN CONFLICT. THESE STATEMENTS, SAID THE MEDIA, SHOW THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE EARLIER, APPARENTLY MODERATE WORDS OF FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL IN NEW YORK AND DEMIREL'S "PROVOCATIVE" COMMENTS ABOUT REACTING AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE WITH THE SISMIK'S ACTIVITIES AND HIS REPORTED REMARK THAT "FOR SIX HUNDRED YEARS THE ISLANDS OF THE AEGEAN WERE OURS AND WERE IN THE HANDS OF THE OTTOMANS". THE MARCH ON ANKARA TO PROTEST THE ALLEGED MALTREATMENT OF THE

TURKISH POPULATION IN WESTERN THRACE WAS ALSO A NEWS ITEM AND WAS CITED AS GROUNDS FOR CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE TURKISH DESIGNS IN THAT AREA.

4. PRESIDENT MAKARIOS' REMARKS OF MONDAY AND AGAIN YESTERDAY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR CYPRUS IN SUPPORT OF THE GOG'S POLICY ON THE AEGEAN ISSUE RECEIVED BROAD COVERAGE IN ALL THE MEDIA. THEY PROMPTED A REBUKE BY LEFTIST PASOK LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU WHO EXPRESSED SURPRISE OVER THE ARCHBISHOP'S STATEMENT WHICH NOT ONLY CONSTITUTES INTERFERENCE IN GREECE'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, HE SAID, BUT REFLECTS A TACTIC FOLLOWED BY THE PRELATE WITH EVERY GREEK GOVERNMENT OF EXPRESSING "ABSOLUTE UNANIMITY" WITH IT, INCLUDING THE DICTATORIAL ONE UP TO A FEW DAYS BEFORE IT OVERTHREW HIM.

5. THE MEDIA ALSO REPORTED THAT WITH THE EXPECTED CONCLUSION OF UNSC CONSIDERATION OF THE AEGEAN DISPUTE TODAY, THE STAGE NOW SHIFTED TO THE HAGUE WHERE THE ICJ WOULD BEGIN ITS HEARING TODAY ON GREECE'S COMPLAINT. TURKEY'S INTENTION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HEARING WAS DULY NOTED, AS WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF THE COURT'S ISSUING AN OPINION IN SEPTEMBER ON AT LEAST SOME OF THE ISSUES. A FEW EDITORIALS PRAISING SENATOR MODALE'S MESSAGE TO AHEPA WERE ALSO EVIDENT. THE RESEARCH SHIP SISMIK I WAS REPORTED TO HAVE RETURNED TO IZMIR FOR REPAIRS AND TO BE FITTED WITH NEW EQUIPMENT BEFORE ITS NEXT VENTURE INTO THE AEGEAN. ACCORDING TO SOME PRESS REPORTS, THIS TIME THE SISMIK IS EXPECTED TO OPERATE IN THE AREA NEAR RHODES, VIEWED BY THE GREEK AS ONE OF THE ESPECIALLY "SENSITIVE" ZONES IN THE AEGEAN DISPUTE WHERE BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE ISSUED EXPLORATION LICENSES.

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